Policy for National Channel of DD

2328. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy, aims and objects of the National Channel of Doordarshan in various States;

(b) whether Government have a separate policy for Kolkata Doordarshan to promote the regional political parties; and

(c) if not, the reasons for which Kolkata Doordarshan broadcasts daily the view of a particular political party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan, including its National and Regional Channels, is mandated by Section 12 (1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 to organize and conduct Public Broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public. Further Section 12 (2) of the aforesaid Act provides that the Prasar Bharati shall, in the discharge of its functions, be guided by certain objectives which *inter-alia* include safeguarding the citizens' right to be informed freely, truthfully and objectively on all matters of public interest, national or international, and presenting a fair and balanced flow of information including contrasting views without advocating any opinion or ideology of its own.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not give preference to any particular political party. Kolkata Doordarshan telecasts its news as per the policy guidelines in a fair and objective manner.

Ban on advertisement on pay channels

2329. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban advertisements on pay channels;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to redefine advertisements revenue rules for pay channels as it is unfair to force a viewer to watch advertisements along with the content he had paid for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Government is keeping a close watch on the situation relating to this issue and will take appropriate action as and when required.

Outstanding dues of producers

2330. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan authorities have asked all the defaulting producers to clear their dues or quit;

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the cumulative amount of outstanding dues as on date, producers-wise;

(c) whether some of the producers have urged the Doordarshan authorities to review the order; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prasar Bharati has infromed that the Prasar Bharati Board has decided that the defauting Producers have to give the payment plan on or before 15.08.2003, for the clearance of the outstanding dues in 24 equal instalments. If the producers fail to do so, they will not be allowed to telecast any programme on sponsored basis even on advance payment and will also not be considered for the allotment of commissioned programmes. The details of the dues as on 07.08.2003